

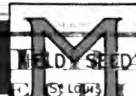
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**Ed. F. MANGELSDORF & BRO. INC.**



M BRAND SEEDS ARE SELECTED FOR QUALITY

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

BROADLEAF

## BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

... says one authority:

*"The most prominent permanent pasture legume recently introduced into the Corn Belt."*

**WHERE DOES IT FIT IN?** Mainly where the soil is not good enough for Clovers such as Alfalfa, Red Clover, Sweet Clover—land that is acid, lower in soil nutrients, and where a perennial legume is wanted. (Lime and fertilizer, of course, will improve the growth.)

**SHOULD IT BE USED ALONE?** It can be, but it is better to use it with one or more Grasses.

**SHOULD OTHER CLOVERS BE USED WITH IT?** Only perhaps Red Clover and use Red Clover sparingly. Birdsfoot Trefoil is slow to start, therefore Red Clover gives pasture the first year while the Trefoil is getting established. Trefoil then will carry on for years.

**WHAT SEED-BED IS REQUIRED:** Well-prepared, mellow and smooth at the surface, firm below. If it is to be used on pasture already in grass, disk to provide a good catch.

**SHALLOW SEEDING?** By all means—not over  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. This is most important.

**INOCULATE THE SEED?** Yes, inoculation is important with all legumes. With Birdsfoot Trefoil it is most necessary. It requires special inoculation, available from seed dealers.

*Broadleaf Birdsfoot Trefoil. Showing upper part of branch. Also shows seed pods in the form of a bird's foot, whence its name.*

*Photos courtesy Soil Conservation Service USDA.*

**HOW MUCH SEED IS REQUIRED?** Sown alone, 5 or 6 pounds per acre on well-prepared seed bed. Up to 10 pounds where seed-bed is not properly prepared. In mixtures (preferable way to use it)—4 to 6 pounds, with 15 pounds of Grasses.

**WHAT GRASSES ARE RECOMMENDED TO GO WITH IT?** Kentucky Blue Grass, Canada Blue Grass, Orchard Grass, Meadow Fescue, Alta Fescue, Brome Grass, Redtop, Timothy, Reed Canary Grass. It is especially suited to Blue Grass, each being tolerant of the other; the Trefoil furnishes necessary nitrogen to the grass. To quote an authority "A seeding of Birdsfoot Trefoil and Blue Grass made in 1940 has shown steady improvement during five years of observation. This mixture consistently produced faster gains and a greater quantity of beef."

**WHERE IS IT ADAPTED?** So far, it has been used with success in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and other Corn Belt States, following widespread use in New England and the Northwest.

**WHAT IS ITS FEEDING VALUE?** It is very palatable, high in protein, equal to Alfalfa and Clovers in nutrition.

**WHEN SHOULD IT BE SEED?** Early Spring or late Summer. Allow good growth before pasturing to avoid pulling up the young seedlings.

**IS IT EXPENSIVE?** No, considering small amount needed, the acre cost is no higher, probably lower, than other Clovers.

**IS THERE MORE THAN ONE KIND?** Yes, there is the Narrow Leaf and Broad-leaf. The Broadleaf has been found superior for the Corn Belt states.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** It is a long-lived perennial. It controls erosion. It improves the soil. It lasts longer in competition with grasses than other legumes. One plant covers a considerable area. It re-seeds to continue itself and spread. It does not become troublesome and can be eradicated by close cultivation when no longer wanted. It is deep-rooted. It is drought-resistant. It is available for pasture in the dry summer months when other pasture is usually short. It grows 12 to 30 inches high, from a well-developed branching taplike root with many stems developing from a crown. It resembles Alfalfa somewhat in appearance. The plants withstand heavy grazing and trampling. It is insect and disease-resistant, more so than some of the other clovers.



*Birdsfoot Trefoil-Bluegrass planting made April, 1946. Photo taken July, 1947.*

*Picture courtesy Soil Conservation Service USDA.*

**AS WITH OTHER FARM SEEDS, USE THE BEST, USE  
M BRAND BROADLEAF BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL**

*"Selected for Quality"*

**M BRAND BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL** is selected quality, high in purity and germination, cleaned against noxious weeds.

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